



# Stewarding Battlefield Conservation Easements in the Shenandoah Valley

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



1864 in the Valley



*Photo: School House Ridge Conservation Easement, Fishers Hill battlefield, Shenandoah County Virginia*

**Patrick Chase Milner**

**Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation**

**Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District**

# Battlefields Foundation Overview

## Legend

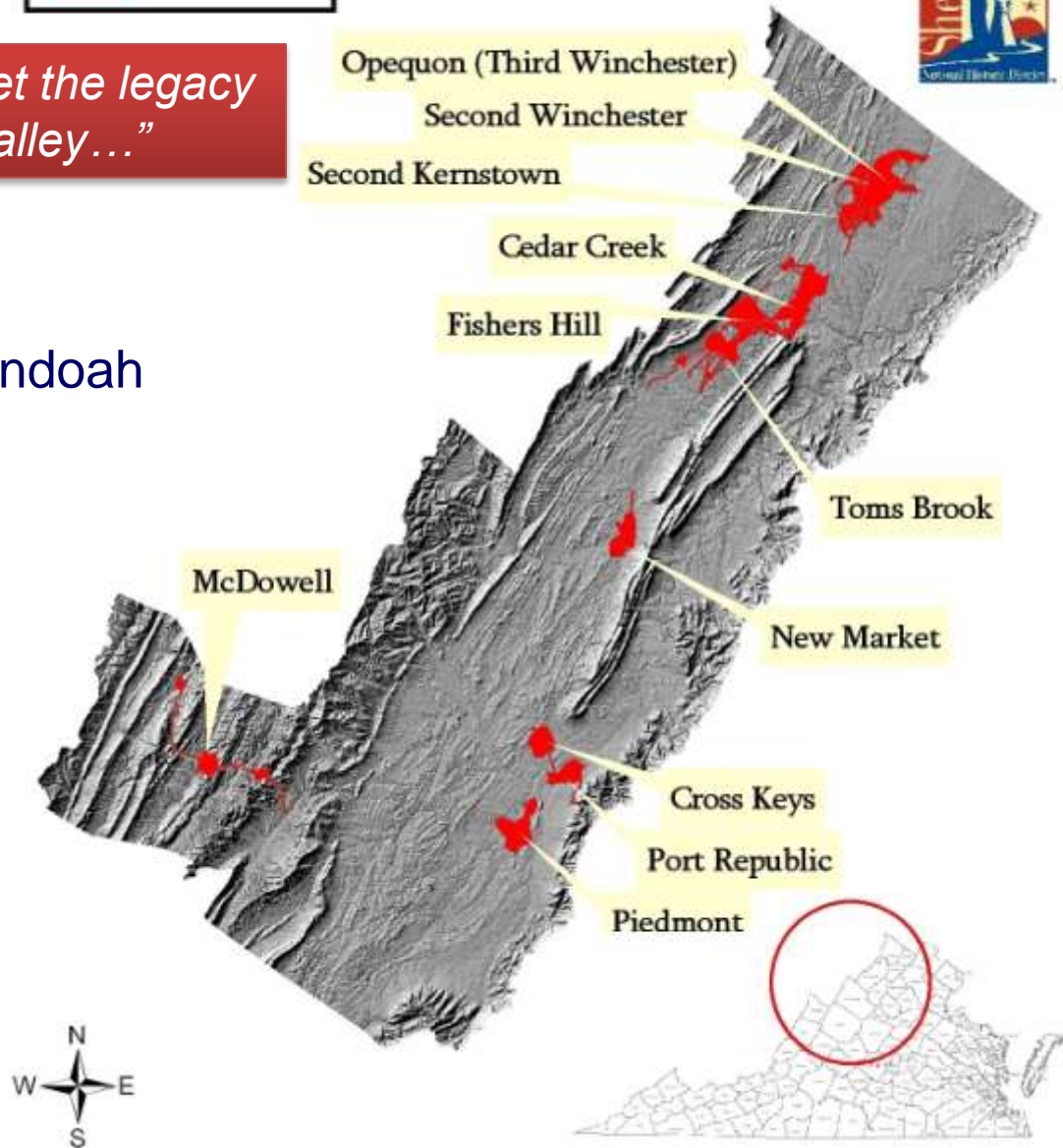
 Battlefields



*“...to preserve, conserve, and interpret the legacy of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley...”*

- 1996: created by Congress, National Heritage Area
- Eight counties in the Shenandoah Valley
- Federal Commission, Management Plan
- Property Mgmt. Committee and Policies
- Volunteer Corps
- Program

Easement co-holders: Va.  
*Dept. of Historic Resources,*  
*Virginia Outdoors Foundation,* Va.  
*Dept. of Conservation Recreation,*  
*The Nature Conservancy,* Town of



# Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

## Resource Protection at a glance

<b>Protected by SVBF in some way</b>	
SVBF owned/eased, previously protected <sup>(1)</sup>	203
SVBF owned/eased, not previously protected	1,486
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,689</b>

Total SVBF <b>Fee-Simple ownership</b> interest	1,689
Total SVBF <b>Conservation Easement</b> interest	2,209

<b>Protected in SVBNHD</b>	
Total SVBF owned/eased, not previously protected	1,486
Total protect by others since 2000, not involving SVBF	285
Total previously protected (see "Before 2000" worksheet)	2,124
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,898</b>

Note: Total protected since 2000	1,771
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*(1) These properties were previously protected or either deeded in fee or eased with SVBF.*



# Conservation Easement Stewardship on Privately Eased Lands

Baseline Documentation  
Report (BDR)

Annual Easement  
Monitoring

Cultivate Positive  
Landowner Relationships

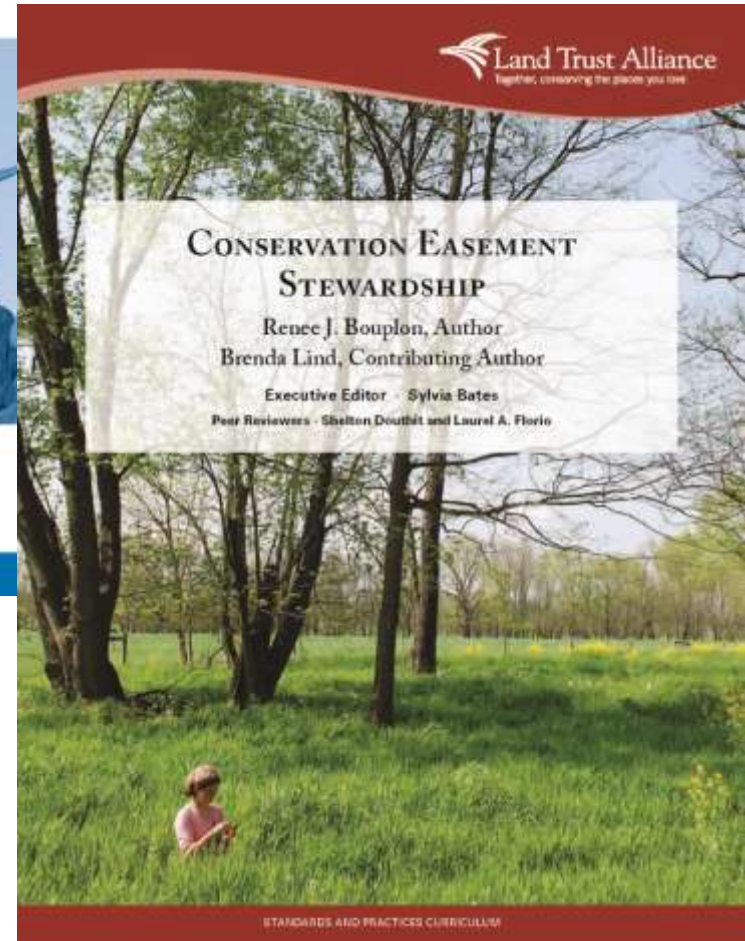
Funding Easement  
Stewardship  
&  
Enforcement

*For more info go to:*

[www.LandTrustAlliance.org](http://www.LandTrustAlliance.org)



Land Trust  
Standards and Practices



***New VCC/SVBF Landowner  
Conservation Easement  
Handbook Available  
(Jan. 2014)***

***Protecting Shenandoah  
Valley Lands :  
A Landowners Guide  
  
by Valley Conservation  
Council***

**[www.valleyconservation.org](http://www.valleyconservation.org)**



**VALLEY  
CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL**



# Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

## Fee Simple Land Stewardship

**Funding Land Stewardship -  
Property Leases  
Partnership Resources  
Conservation Grants**

**Property Management  
Notebook/Administration**

**SVBF Volunteer Corps Program**

**SVBF GIS Property Database**

**SVBF Property Mgmt. Policies**



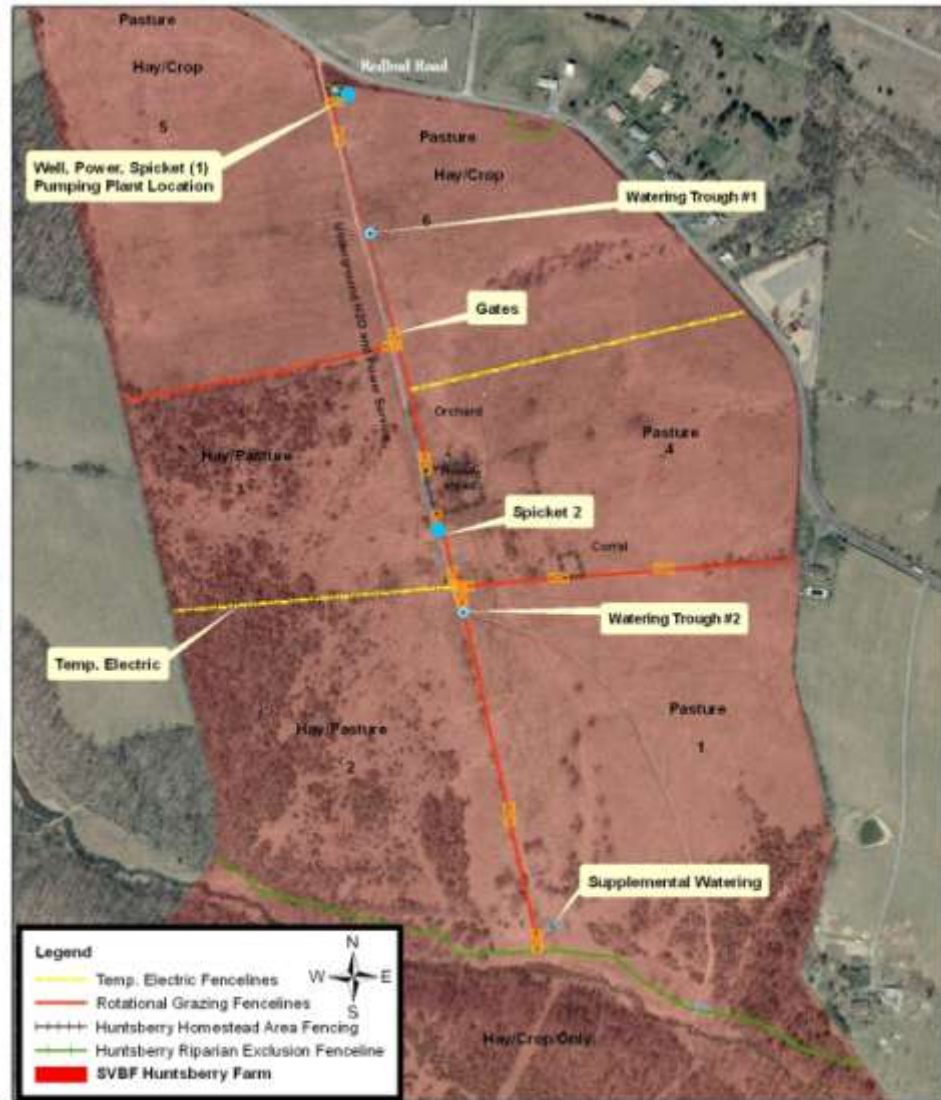
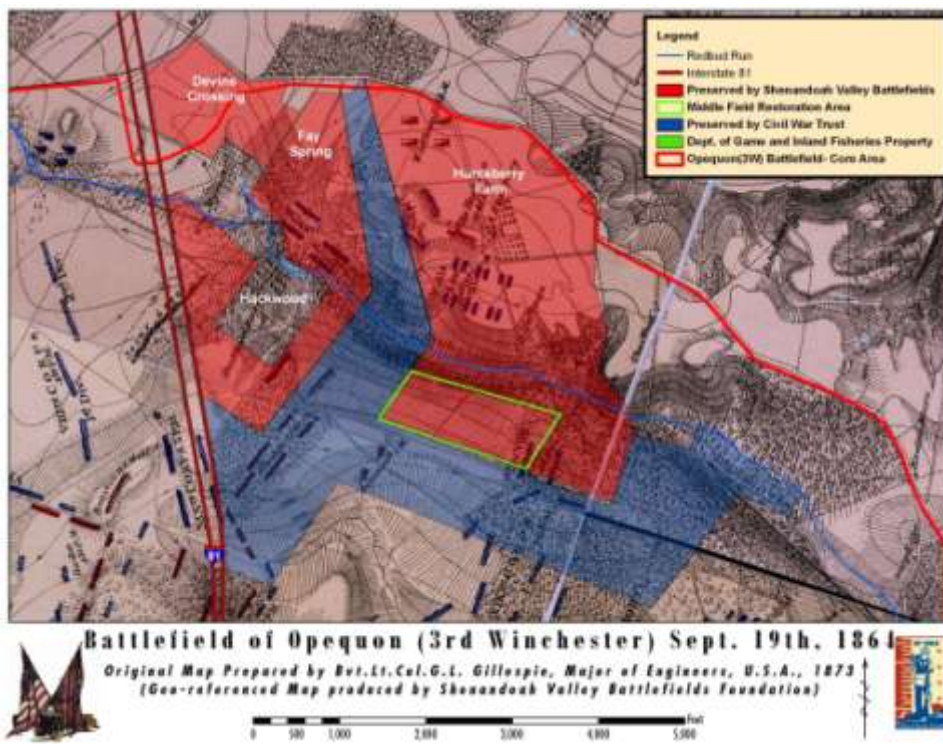
# **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation**

## **Property Management Policies**

**Agricultural Land Use  
Archeological Excavations and Relic  
Hunting  
Historical Reenactments  
Hunting and Fishing  
Infrastructure Improvements  
Leasing of Property  
Recreational Activities  
Vegetation Management  
Payment of Real Property Taxes  
Commemorative Works and Plaques  
Signs and Boundary Marking  
Geocaching Activities on SVBF Property  
Timber Management**



# Huntsberry Farm Conservation Farm Plan



## Conservation BMP Cost Share Support:



Smithsonian Conservation  
Biology Institute



Frederick County  
Tax Maps:  
55-A-3, 55-A-4  
209 acres

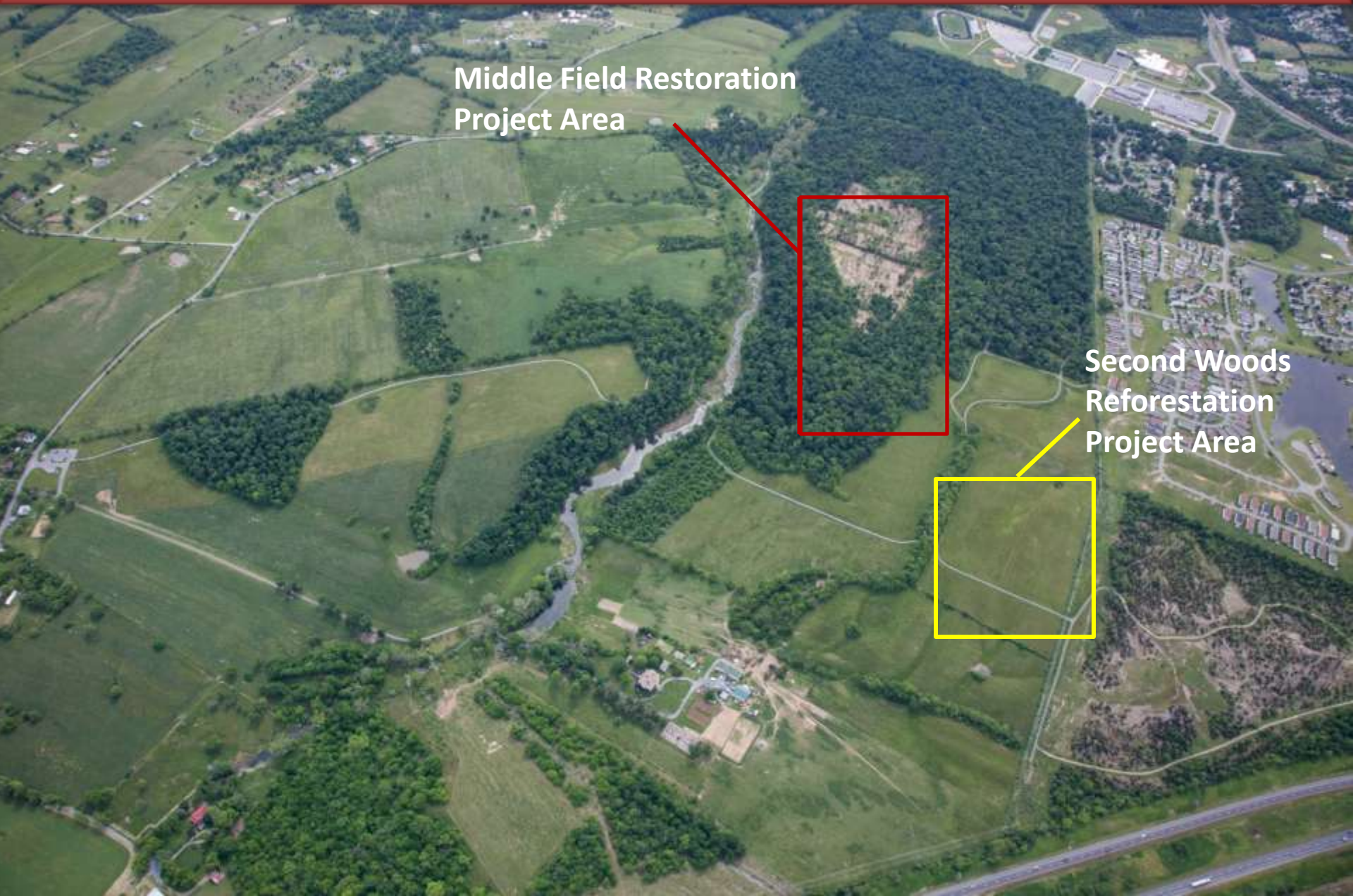
## Huntsberry Farm Conservation BMP Projects

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet





# Third Winchester Historic Landscape Projects from above... (looking to the east(top of photo))



Middle Field Restoration  
Project Area

Second Woods  
Reforestation  
Project Area









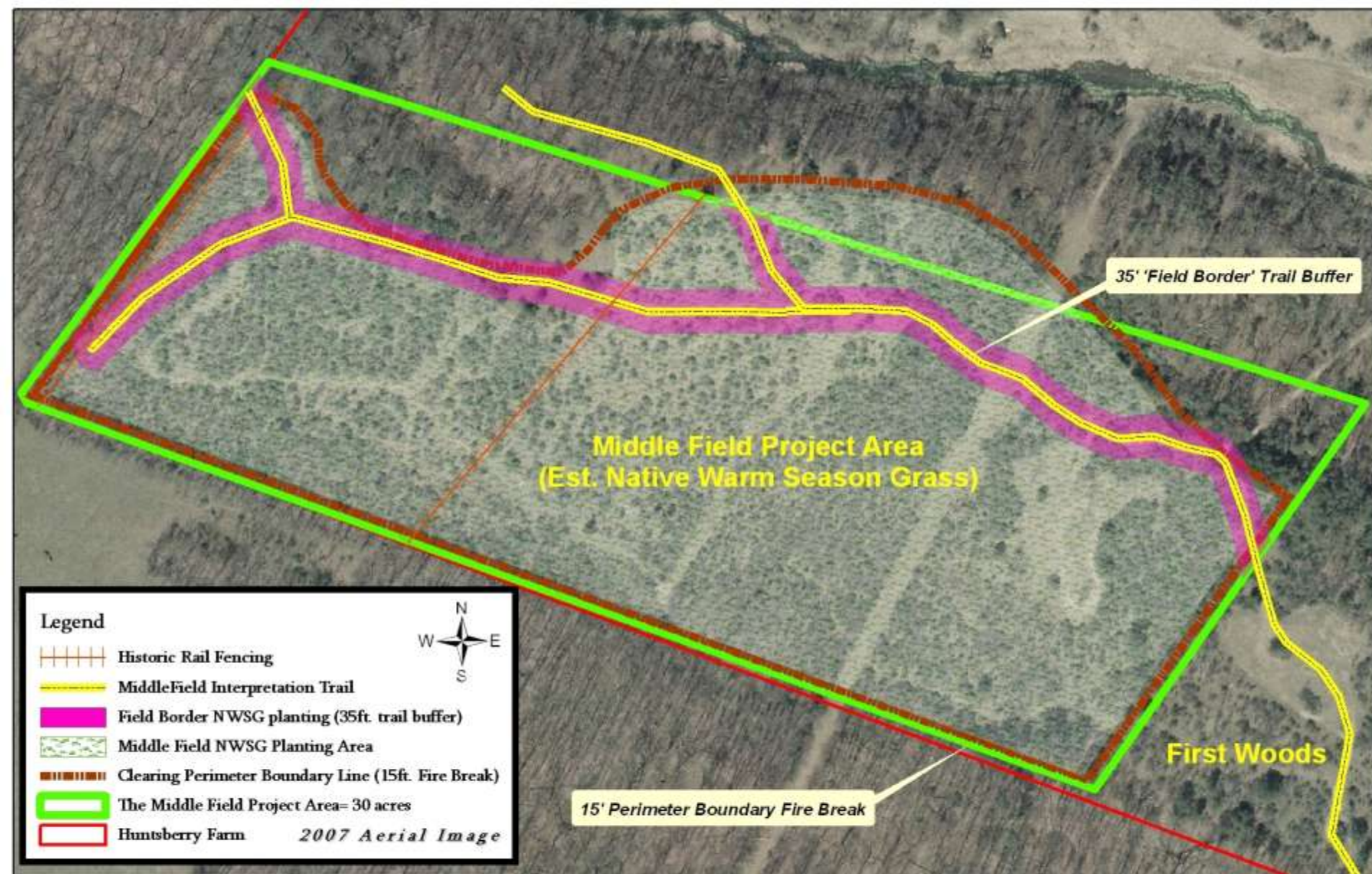












Smithsonian  
Institution



USDA **NRCS**  
United States Department of Agriculture  
National Resource Conservation Service

ahyaaha



WEST

CITY OF WINCHESTER

Devins  
Crossing

Historic Hackwood Lane

Hackwood Mansion

Pay Spring

Historic  
Second Woods

Hackwood Lane Trail

SOUTH

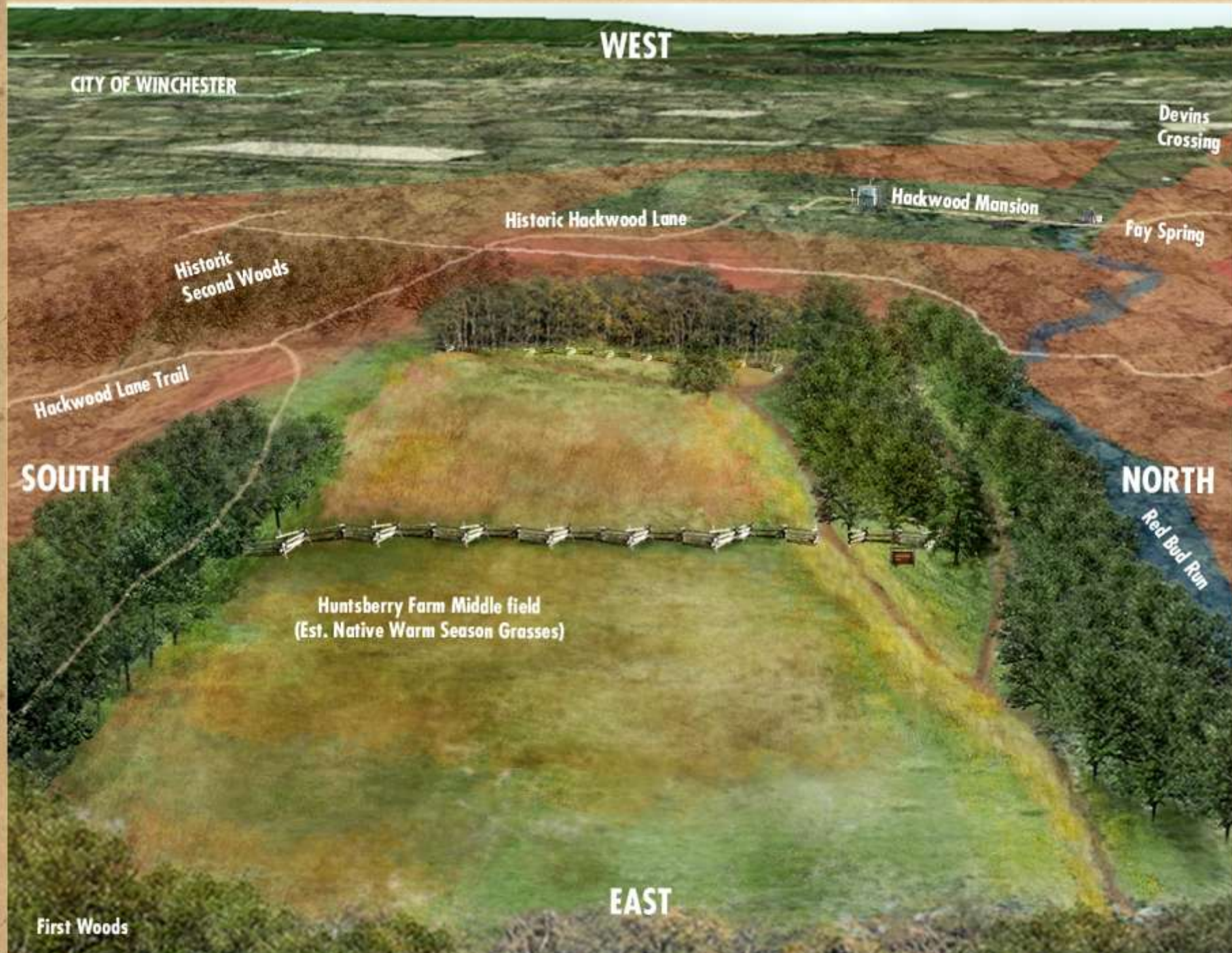
NORTH

Red Bud Run

Huntsberry Farm Middle field  
(Est. Native Warm Season Grasses)

EAST

First Woods



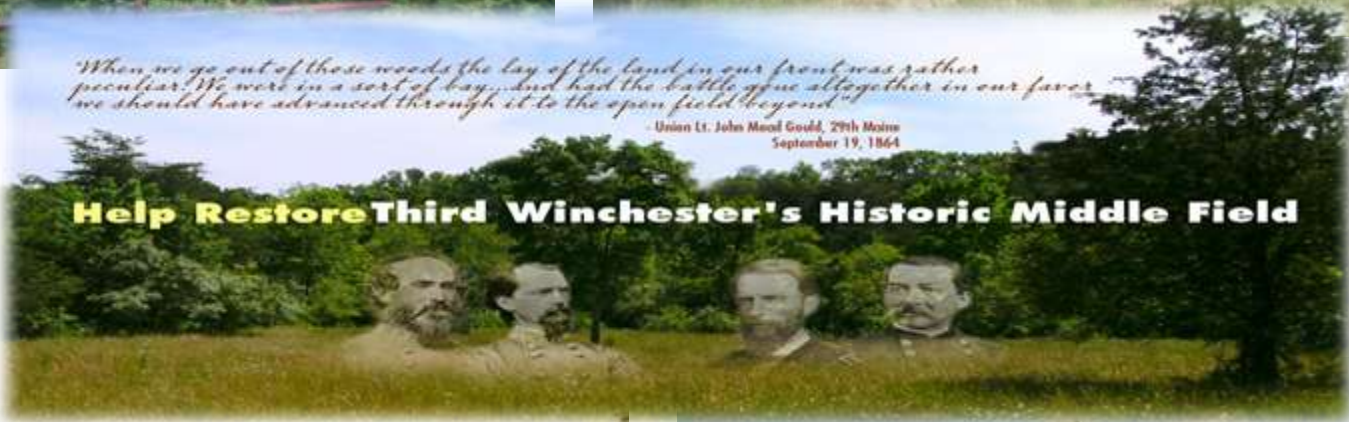




*"When we go out of these woods the lay of the land in our front was rather peculiar. We were in a sort of bay...and had the battle gone altogether in our favor we should have advanced through it to the open field beyond."*

Union Lt. John Mood Gould, 29th Maine  
September 19, 1864

**Help Restore Third Winchester's Historic Middle Field**





# Historic Landscape Restoration Accomplishments at 3W

- Huntsberry Farm Conservation Farm Plan Complete
- Second Woods Reforestation Project Area Planted
- Middle Field Restoration Project Underway



150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opequon (3W)  
Commemoration Weekend

*September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014*



# Easement Stewardship

## Panel Discussion Questions

Any questions or concerns as related to stewarding battlefield easements?

Where do I seek creative financing strategies for conservation easement stewardship Best Management Practices(BMP's)?

*Any Other Questions?*

*Patrick Chase Milner  
Manager of Stewardship, SVBF*

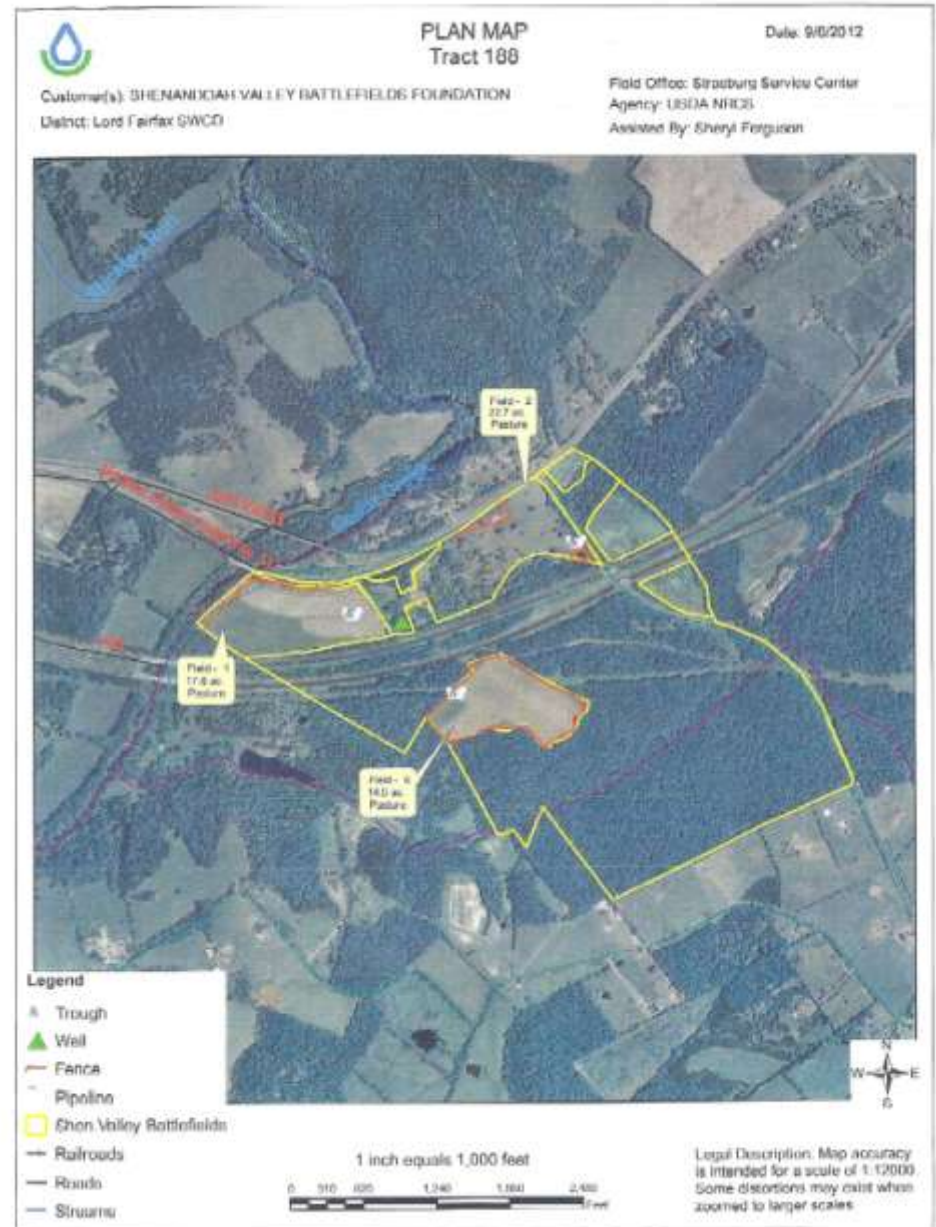
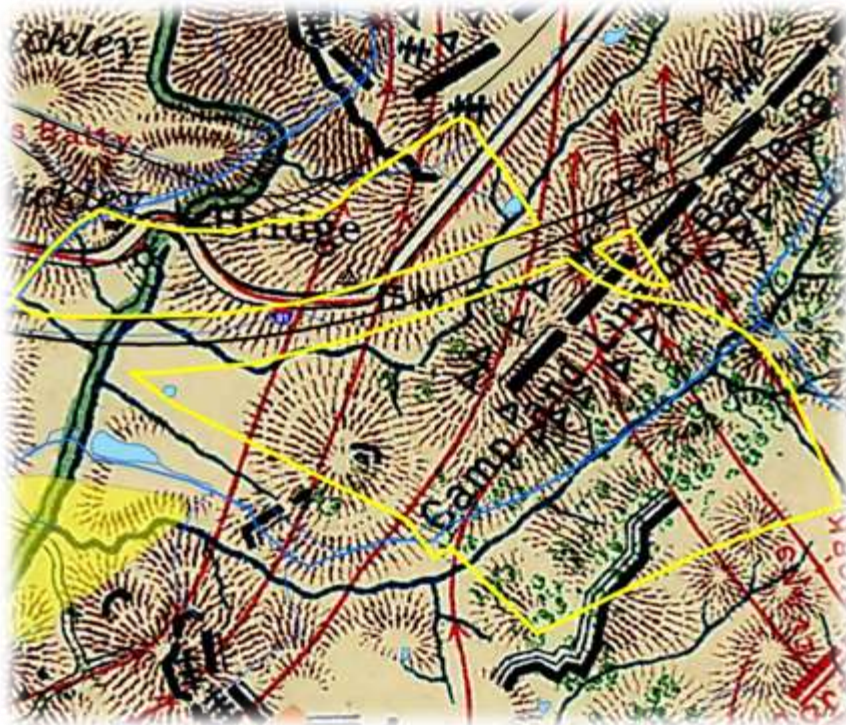
[chase@svbf.net](mailto:chase@svbf.net)

*540-740-4545*



# Looking Ahead

## VIII Corps Property Farm BMP Project Area





# Middle Field Archaeology Review

An exposed wire fence line used as an x-axis, a Nikon Laser Transit was used to establish a set of 300 ft. long linear transects that were placed at 50 ft. intervals along the length of the old farm fence line.

A near perfect line of dropped Union bullets and militaria was found in a line that ran parallel to the current fence but approximately 50 feet to the east towards the "First Woods".

## ***Recovered Artifacts Include:***

.557 & .58 caliber 3-ring Minie's

Williams Cleaners bullets

Pistol balls

Percussion caps

Confederate Gardners

1 Conf. Witworth 'bolt' bullet

3 pieces of lead artillery canister shell

## ***Preliminary Conclusions:***

The pattern of dropped bullets, are evidence of the firing line initially as established by the 114<sup>th</sup> New York.

